

BOARD OF ELECTIONS – PUBLIC HEARING 3/2/13

By: Rosalind Kipping, Precinct Chair for Precinct 13-69

Precinct 13-69, located in the Leisure World senior community, votes in Clubhouse-II. On Election Day 2012, we did not experience any problems with the flow of individuals who came to vote at this location. Adequate seating was provided by Leisure World for those waiting for access to the voting area. We experienced some very busy periods, and toward the end of the day quiet periods.

By contrast, Precinct 13-54, also located in the Leisure World senior community, voting in Clubhouse-I, experienced great difficulty with the flow of individuals who went to that location to vote. Louise Armentrout, Democratic Precinct Chair for Precinct 13-54, reported to me that when the polls opened, the staff provided by the Board of Elections was inadequate and too few check-in books had been received (additional check-in books arrived later in the day). The wait in line was very long, at times up to two hours. The problems at Clubhouse-I were exacerbated by the delivery of busloads of voters who live at Bedford Court, the continuing care facility just beyond the Leisure World property.

I bring to your attention that we are a community of older citizens, many of whom experience mobility problems. Access to Clubhouse-I is difficult for these people. Parking is at a distance from the building, and one must walk up-hill to get to the building entrance. The hallways of this building are always busy with people attending events in the many meeting rooms, and seating was not provided by Leisure World for those waiting for access to the voting area.

Clubhouse-II provides much easier access with close-up parking and level walkways. Perhaps it would be possible for voters to self-select their place to vote within Leisure World. The technology already exists for this as previously demonstrated during the early-voting period. Clubhouse-II is able to handle a larger population of voters without difficulty and this would serve to greatly ameliorate the problems at Clubhouse-I.

The voter ratio of the two Clubhouses is roughly 3:2 with the greater number voting at Clubhouse-I. I recommend that the Board of Elections consider adjusting the voter population by increasing the number of voters in Precinct 13-69 (Clubhouse-II) and decreasing the number of voters in Precinct 13-54 (Clubhouse-I).

Twinbrook Citizens Association

POST OFFICE BOX 834 - ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20848-0834

**THE
VOICE
OF
THE
COMMUNITY**

March 2, 2013

To:
The Montgomery County Board of Elections
Ms. Mary Ann Keeffe, President

The area encompassed by our neighborhood association, the Twinbrook Citizens Association, encompasses three precincts: 04-06, 04-07, and 04-09. The redistricting plan before you today is of concern to us because it affects the integrity of our neighborhood and also should be of concern to you because of the administrative and bureaucratic costs it creates. Ms. Jurgensen graciously met with me and my vice-president, also the precinct chair for 04-07, on Friday February 22. Preliminary information indicated that the changes to our precinct emanated unilaterally from this Board, however after our meeting with Ms. Jurgensen, it is apparent that most of the changes are obligated by the "Garagiola Gerrymander", and will require action by the State Assembly and/or our County Council to correct.

That said, there are some mitigations we are requesting:

04-38: We are fine with this precinct voting at 04-07 (its parent district) but note that the maps do not reflect current City limits. Notably, along Twinbrook Parkway, the City recently annexed in several single family homes. This needs to be corrected in your records. We intend to pursue rectifying the "Garagiola Gerrymander" so that the homes in the west part of 04-38 are returned to 04-07 and the apartments in the east part of 04-38 become congruent with 04-27, thus erasing 04-38.

04-37 and 04-40: These two precincts cover the site of a recent annexation (2005) into City limits. It is already zoned and approved for 1595(+/-) apartments and the arbitrary split of this area between 04-27 and 04-15 was irrelevant before this zoning and annexation. But we submit for your consideration that this boundary is going to run right through buildings and should be addressed in the near future. For the 2014 elections, since ALL of the residents in this area are citizens of Rockville, we submit that they be sent to vote in a precinct within Rockville city limits.

04-43: I will not comment on this precinct except to say that I believe either the map or the Excel handout is wrong. Again, this is a microprecinct that should be extinguished if possible.

04-27: Residents of this precinct, who are not citizens of Rockville, should not be voting in precinct 04-09 (Meadow Hall). We question why they are not being sent to vote at Twinbrook Library.

04-33: As with 04-37 and 04-40, this precinct is zoned for major development. It will probably not have residents by 2014, but you should consider for the future that the residents of this precinct will be citizens of Rockville, and should vote in a Rockville precinct. We support ONE precinct/ONE voting site, a condition that will be increasingly difficult to meet, but should be the gold standard for organizing our elections.

I hope that the City of Rockville will weigh in and support our recommendations. As far as I can tell, the City and its Board of Supervisors of Elections received no notice of this hearing, neither did any civic associations, so I am not surprised that there are no other Rockville advocates in attendance today. I will add one more recommendation with regard to precinct 04-19, on the north of the City. I would hope that you could find a polling place within Rockville City limits for this precinct, instead of sending its residents north and across Rt 355 to Candlewood ES, precinct 04-14.

Finally, I would hope the Board will pursue with all due diligence efforts to extinguish both ghost precincts and micro-precincts. They do not serve the voters and they are burdensome to the taxpayer. I acknowledge that this may be beyond your responsibility, but I hope you do all within your power to accomplish this.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for public input.

Sincerely,

Christina Y. Ginsberg
President
Twinbrook Citizens Association

*Montgomery County Board of Elections
Public Hearing – Legislative Redistricting/Precinct Realignment*

March 2, 2013

Date: March 2, 2013

To: Montgomery County Board of Elections:

From: Joyce Temple, Election Judge 2012, Precinct 13-69, Leisure World, Clubhouse II

3310 North Leisure World Blvd, #822,

Silver Spring, MD, 20906

email: jtemple40@yahoo.com,

phone 240-293-6464

Thank you for considering Leisure World's Precinct possibilities for Clubhouse I and Clubhouse II for the election in 2014.

I am speaking as a Montgomery County Election Judge for Precinct 13-69, Clubhouse II, the 2012 President of the Leisureworld Yahoogroups, and a resident of Leisure World.

I've reached out to several Leisure World residents of Leisure World. We've agreed on these priorities:

1. Resident health
2. Resident safety
3. Disabled/Handicapped access
4. Parking access
5. Building Access

We have had several discussions that have resulted in compiling these suggestions:

Early Voting

1. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and Leisure World Inter-Faith Chapel
2. or
3. the Leisure World Clubhouses
- 4.

Precinct Balancing

- Balance the two precincts in Leisure World; there will be an additional 50+ residential units when the Villa Cortese building is complete, adding to Clubhouse I, 13-54.

- Provide more machines registration and voting to each precinct.
Seniors vote in greater numbers than any other group of citizens.

Precinct Chief Election Judges-Election Judges

- Require retraining every election year; focus on provisional.
- Election judge training should include testing with a Pass/Fail report. The registration/computer testing should have a time limit.
- Replace older election judges with people capable of performing specific tasks including registration, lifting 40 pounds and provisional balloting.
- BOE host a luncheon to honor and retire those that have served for XX years.

Logistics

- Registration tables should have more space (still linked) between each judge to enable voters and judges to hear adequately at every polling place. Many seniors have hearing problems and the communication between the election judge and the voter becomes loud impacting all at the registration tables.
- More line monitors for disabled, physically impaired people at all early voting precincts.
- Provide more machines set up with chairs for elderly and disabled to sit.
- Allow chairs in each Clubhouse for people to sit while waiting to register
- Use a numbering system to call people from chairs to registration, eliminating moving from chair to chair in line.

This request for early voting at Leisure World is based on the problems that many people experienced by trying to vote early at Bauer Drive. It created a pedestrian and traffic nightmare. I got in line the first available day. By the time I had voted which was 45 minutes waiting, I drove down Bauer Drive and saw the line down to Norbeck Road. There was limited monitoring of the line and I believe I saw people with canes, etc that should have been directed to go to the front door of the center rather than wait in that horribly long line.

On Election Day the team at Clubhouse II, 1-69, was able to accommodate most people in a very timely manner. Since I have good computer skills I stayed at the registration table for most of the day. I had to take a break now and then just to move and stretch. When I was replaced there were people on the registration table that really held up the line; they had difficulty hearing, keying, and communicating with the voters.

After a few hours we began getting voters that had been to Clubhouse I, precinct 13-54 who did not want to wait for 2 or 3 hours to vote since they were so backed up. Clubhouse I did not receive enough voting machines. We had more than ninety people that came to Clubhouse II, precinct 13-69, and cast provisional ballots due (94-not counted) to the lines at Clubhouse I. The forms and ballots were not handled properly. The Election Judge that performed the provisional ballots needs to be retired. I indicated that on my Peer Review form presented earlier.

Thank you for your attention and please know that we at Leisure World are willing to help in any way possible to be sure that the population, one of the largest voting districts is provided with the equipment and people necessary to host an exceptional voting precinct.

Roher, Margie

From: Elly Shaw-Belblidia [mirinor@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2013 1:13 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Cc: dollykilddee@hotmail.com; skatz@gaitthersburgmd.gov; cdrzyzgula@gaitthersburgmd.gov
Subject: Pct arrangement Gaithersburg Asbury and Gaithersburg ES

To the Board of Elections and Staff:

This regards the "informal voter study" map for precincts 09-20, 09-28, and new 09-40 that you shared at the March 2 BOE meeting.

Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz, Gaithersburg City Council Member Cathy Drzyzgula, and Democratic Precinct Chair for Gaithersburg High School Dolly Kilddee were all able to take a close look at the map on paper. They all agreed that this new arrangement looks good for the voters in that area.

Gaithersburg Elementary School is an excellent choice for the polling location for the new 09-40; I hope that it will end up being the polling place.

Question: Could a precinct located at Gaithersburg Elementary School go back to being called 09-01 as it was in the past? Why would it need a new number?

Sincerely,
Elly Shaw-Belblidia
Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

3/2/2013

Roher, Margie

From: Dave Beaudet [david_p_beaudet@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2013 12:34 PM
To: Elections, Board-Of
Subject: In support of a unified polling location for the Town of Kensington

I fully support the State of MD Bill sponsored by the Montgomery County delegation to establish a unified polling location for the Town of Kensington. It was a blunder to divide the Town of Kensington in the first place and frankly I was appalled when I read in an article that the primary reason for the division was to work around a computer software limitation. Please never make a future decision due to an arbitrary technology limitation. Such actions degrade our democracy and call into question the integrity of our voting processes.

Thank you,

David Beaudet
3506 Farragut Ave
Kensington, MD 20895

3/4/2013

Testimony on Behalf of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee Before the Montgomery County Board of Elections, March 2, 2013

Good morning. My name is Vic Weissberg, I'm here on behalf of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

First, we have a few comments about the Legislative Redistricting proposed by the Board of Elections.

We realize that redistricting, with new district lines, makes it necessary to create a number of precincts that are "atypical" or "outliers" from the classic precinct. Some of these are very small precincts, and finding polling places for these voters may be difficult. It appears that some of the most challenging areas are in Washington Grove, Twinbrook and Meadow Hall in Rockville, and Kensington. We ask that you continue to work on arranging polling places that cause the least disruption to voters. We understand that some of the issues in the Kensington area may be addressed through legislation, and we ask that you work with local officials to find the best resolution in any event.

It is difficult for us to make comments on the new precincts without having maps that show the streets that define each precinct. We hope those maps are made available very soon and that we can review them and make further comments before the Board makes its final decisions.

Many voters will be affected by these changes. We ask that you make all efforts through various media outlets to publicize to the general public that changes are on the way. In addition, we hope that voters who are affected in any way by these changes will get special communication through the mail.

Regarding Polling Place Changes:

For Precinct 13-39, our precinct and District 18 leadership ask that the Board consider a different arrangement for the 2014 election. We propose that Precinct 13-39 double up at Precinct 13-16 (Rosemary Hills Elementary School). Many residents of the precinct are accustomed to voting at this facility. Alternatively, please consider the Coffield Community Center. Your proposal shows North Chevy Chase Elementary School as the 2014 temporary polling place; we understand that there will be work taking place at the school and that parking will be limited.

For Precinct 13-47 in Silver Spring: We support the request of voters from this precinct that they should have a permanent polling place that is located in their precinct. We hope the Board of Elections will work with precinct voters on finding the best possible location.

[following remarks by Ros Kipping] For Precincts 13-54 and 13-69, Leisure World Clubhouses I and II: We support the request of Leisure World residents to redistribute voters to reduce crowding at Clubhouse I. Again, we hope you will work with precinct voters; they are the ones who know best the conditions on the ground.

Thank you for your hard work on this challenging task, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

HEATHER R. MIZEUR
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Education
and Economic Development

Capital Budget

Oversight Committee on Pensions



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301-270-0064

March 7, 2013

Mary Ann Keffe
President, Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 N Frederick Ave Ste 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Ms. Keffe,

I write to express my strong support for returning the polling location for Precinct 13-47 to the precinct in the south Silver Spring area of Legislative District 20. As the Montgomery County Board of Elections President, I know you share my deep commitment to ensuring ease of access for voters at their polling locations. Unfortunately, the current polling location – the Silver Spring Civic Center – severely limits voter access for precinct residents.

As you may know, Precinct 13-47 is unique in that it has no public venues typically used for polling, like churches or schools. This increases the difficulty of locating a suitable alternative, and the past relocation to the Civic Center during the last election was the largest distance change of any precinct relocation in the County. However, due to the demographics of our precinct residents, distance to a polling location should be given the utmost consideration in precinct 13-47. A vast number of residents do not own a car, are senior citizens, or are persons with a disability. The commute of nearly 2 miles by foot or public transportation to the Civic Building can be burdensome for some residents.

Due to this relative difficulty in access, I strongly support the residents' efforts to change their polling location from the Civic Building back to the NOAA building or to find another suitable site, like the Montgomery College Performing Arts Center. I recognize that site cost - a major factor in the past relocation from the NOAA site - and other issues must be considered, and I am willing to lend assistance in outreach to the College or any other entity to ensure relocation of the Precinct 13-47 polling place back into south Silver Spring.

Thank you for giving this request your careful consideration. Relocation from the Civic Center to another venue will give Precinct 13-47 residents the best possible access to voting. If I may be of further assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather R. Mizeur".

Heather R. Mizeur
Delegate, 20th Legislative District
Maryland General Assembly



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS

'13 MAR 11 A10:49

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

March 4, 2013

Mary Anne Keffe
President
Montgomery County Board of Elections
18753 North Frederick Avenue Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Dear Ms. Keffe:

I am writing to express support for the selection of a permanent polling site for Precinct 13-47 that serves the needs of voters and is located within the boundaries of the precinct. As the Montgomery County Councilmember representing this community, I believe it is crucial to choose a permanent site that allows for the most efficient and largest possible public participation in the electoral process.

Over the past seven years the polling site has been moved four times. This has created confusion for voters and makes it difficult for citizens to know where they will cast their ballots from year to year. Finding a permanent location will establish stability and ensure that all those that wish to vote are familiar with the site for future elections.

In addition to finding a permanent location, it is important to find a polling place that best fits the unique character of the community. Currently the polling place for Precinct 13-47 is the Silver Spring Civic Building, which is not within the borders and is over 2 miles away from their most recent site at NOAA. Traveling to the Silver Spring Civic Building poses problems for South Silver Spring residents, especially those who are elderly and disabled. Finding a location that better serves current residents on election day is important and will only become more critical as more housing becomes available within the precinct and the number of voters grows substantially.

I strongly support this community and their effort to solidify a permanent polling place within the boundaries of Precinct 13-47 that best serves their needs. Thank you for your consideration and continued dedication to Montgomery County voters.

Sincerely,

Valerie Ervin
Councilmember – District 5

Cc: Margaret Jurgensen

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